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LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 11 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to you (S/1999/540), in which it is alleged that on 6 and 7 April 1999 Kuwaiti patrols searched several Iraqi craft inside Iraqi territorial waters and confiscated the papers of those on board.

I should like to state that the allegations made by Iraq in this letter are no more than a rehearsal of the unreal fabrications to which it has persistently sought to give currency. The fact of the matter is that at 1610 hours on Tuesday, 6 April 1999, Coast Guard patrols performing their customary duties in the northern sector of Kuwait's territorial waters observed a group of Iraqi fishing boats inside those waters at channel 160, 8 nautical miles from Ra's al-Qayd, and that they were then asked to leave Kuwaiti territorial waters.

The relevant Kuwaiti authorities categorically deny Iraq's allegations. They affirm that it is impossible to believe assertions that are merely a perversion of the facts and are part and parcel of a policy based on provoking crises and heightening tension in the area.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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